



OUR MISSION



Michael Manzella
(1971 - 1993)

Michael Manzella, a gifted scholar, musician and athlete, succumbed to a two-year battle with cancer in 1993 at the age of 21. He left behind a legacy of music, love and inspirational courage. This Foundation was conceived to honor that legacy.

The Michael Manzella Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to activities in education, children's causes, cancer research and the arts. We support those individuals and institutions that demonstrate the leadership and potential to make significant contributions in these areas. These goals are consistent with the struggles and achievements of Michael's life.

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 GOVERNORS COMEDY CLUB NIGHT

Please join us at Governor's Comedy Club in Levittown! Come celebrate Michael's energy and spirit laughing with family and friends while supporting the MMF's mission. Back by popular demand, we will also have beautiful gift baskets and gift certificates from local businesses. Help us make this the best comedy night yet!!



For more information and/or reservations, call Joan Manzella at (516) 764-7419.

Keep in Touch! To hear more about MMF events, please provide us with your e-mail address on the enclosed form.

If you wish to support MMF, you may send a tax-deductible donation to:

Michael Manzella Foundation
412 Woodbridge Road
Rockville Centre, New York 11570

You may also donate on-line at www.themichaelmanzellafoundation.com. This option is available under the "About" tab. Thank you for your support.



MICHAEL • MANZELLA • FOUNDATION
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends:

As we begin our **23rd year of activity**, MMF continues to grow and evolve our mission in **education, children's causes, cancer research and the arts**. Our past Fellows now number over 100! And our 2016 Fellows are again an amazingly talented group. Our Board continues to expand and our grant-making relationships are thriving. We hope you enjoy reading about each in the following pages.

We continue to remain proud of our two-pronged philanthropic approach to "making the world just a little bit better tomorrow than it was yesterday" utilizing **direct sponsorship** and **selective partnerships**.

Our **direct sponsorships** allow us to support passionate young people – scientists, musicians, artists, activists – seeking to use their gifts to make a positive and enduring difference in the world. This past March, we reaffirmed confidence in our long-term impact when we learned that Divyansh Agarwal (already a two-time MMF Fellow) was **CEO and Founder of SelfCerve**, a start-up aiming to serve a **billion women** with cervical cancer screening (see "where are they now" on p. 2 for more details).

We are also proud to have sponsored 7 new Fellows this year who, each in their unique way, is contributing to the **multi-front battle against cancer**. Our 2016 Fellows are making significant contributions to the fights against **leukemia, pediatric cancer, lymphoma, brain tumors, lung cancer and prostate cancer**.

We also continue our **long-term selective partnerships** offering much-needed financial support to organizations that share our passion. We are proud to provide ongoing support to **artistic education** for inner-city children (Dream-Yard), support to families of **children with life-threatening illnesses** (Friends of Karen) and **musical comfort to children with cancer** (Musicians on Call).

Last, but certainly not least, we are delighted to welcome **John Loge** and **Sean Michael Manzella** to our Board. As Dean of Timothy Dwight College at Yale, John knew Michael well during his life. As Michael's namesake and nephew, Sean Michael only knows his uncle through family, friends and MMF. We are thrilled that our new Board members bring both perspectives – **life and legacy** – to MMF and its mission.

So, with another series of successes behind us, we remain **infinitely grateful** for your past support and **exceptionally confident** about our ability to make a difference in the world.

Frank J. Manzella

Michael Manzella Award

Since 1993 Yale University's Timothy Dwight Residential College has presented an award to a graduating senior in honor of Michael. This year the silver bowl award was presented to Paul Joseph Steffan, who exemplifies Michael's "sterling qualities" and whose "kindness, dedication and courage most inspired his classmates."



From left to right: John P. Loge, Joan Manzella, Sean Manzella, Paul Joseph Steffan and Frank Manzella, Sr.

Two New Board Members Join the MMF

The MMF proudly welcomes John P. Loge, Jr. and Sean Michael Manzella to its Board of Directors, effective 2016. Both have longtime ties to MMF's work.



John P. Loge, Jr.

John P. Loge, Jr served as Dean of Timothy Dwight College at Yale University from September, 1991 through June, 2014. John was a brand-new Dean when Michael Manzella, then a sophomore living in Timothy Dwight ("TD"), was diagnosed with cancer. Throughout Michael's illness, Dean Loge served as a friend, confidant, advisor, and mentor. After Michael's death in 1993, Dean Loge helped Michael's friends on campus cope with the incredible loss of this special young man, and assisted the MMF founders in the start up stages of their work. He even let us use his apartment as a site for our early Board meetings! After his retirement as Dean in 2014, MMF presented Dean Loge with a captain's wheel, reminding him of his steadfast leadership at TD, and we are so thrilled to welcome him officially to the MMF Board.



Sean Manzella

Sean never met his Uncle Michael, but he embodies Michael's spirit through his warm and friendly nature, always putting others at ease. From his childhood, Sean looked for ways to make an impact on the MMF's work, even raising money on his own through a Cub Scout project. Sean has assisted the MMF Fellowship Committee as both a reader of applications and an interviewer of candidates and he brings a relevant, youthful perspective to the MMF's accomplishments and future goals. We are delighted to have Sean Michael bring his talent and energy to our Board.

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LONG TERM MMF PARTNERS

MMF proudly awards \$5,000 to each of these mission-focused organizations:

Musicians on Call brings live and recorded music to the bedsides of pediatric patients in healthcare facilities. By delivering live, in-room performances to patients undergoing treatment or unable to leave their beds, some joy is brought to the pediatric wing at Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer

Center. www.musiciansoncall.org

DreamYard Project collaborates with Bronx youth, families and schools to provide access to the arts through in-school programming to more than 40 public schools. In return, students enhance their skills, develop confidence, and open pathways to a brighter future. www.dreamyard.com



Friends of Karen provides emotional, financial and advocacy support for children with a life-threatening illness and their families in order to help keep them strong and functioning during this tragic time. www.friendsofkaren.org



MMF Donors Inspired to Go Beyond

MMF donors Jackie Cooperman and Jason Shrednick first learned about Friends of Karen (FOK) an organization supporting the families of children facing cancer, through the MMF. Inspired by MMF, the couple reached out to FOK's intrepid director Judith Factor, and decided to support FOK, and to involve their daughter Livia. The family's involvement grew from small projects to inviting Livia's Girl Scout troop to make hospital bags for FOK kids. The Girl Scouts also raised money for the organization by selling Girl Scout cookies (see photo). Two years ago, Jackie joined FOK's Advisory Board. This year, she also volunteered for the auction committee, amassing nearly two dozen generous donations for the September 22 event, which raises a significant portion of FOK's annual budget. Jackie says, "We are lucky to volunteer for FOK and are grateful to the MMF for alerting us to this amazing organization."



NYC Girl Scout Troop #3472 selling cookies and raising funds for Friends of Karen!

Where Are They Now?

Recent MMF Fellow Divyansh Agarwal (Y'15), is now CEO of SelfCerve, a start-up aiming to serve a billion women with an easily administered test for cervical cancer offering results in five minutes. Cervical cancer screening is hard to come by in the developing world, putting a billion women at risk. Two-time MMF Summer Fellow Di-



Divyansh Agarwal, CEO SelfCerve, with Thulani Tsabedze, SelfCerve's COO.

vyansh Agarwal is now pursuing a medical degree at University of Pennsylvania and his latest cancer-related venture was featured in an April, 2016 article in the Philadelphia Inquirer. With fellow Penn student Thulani Tsabedze (COO), Divyansh is developing a device that provides a low-cost, quick method for screening women at risk of cervical cancer. SelfCerve is a \$15 device with a soft silicon tip that gets coated with acetic acid (vinegar) before easy insertion. An onboard LED camera takes a picture of the cervix, revealing normal conditions or lesions, which can be treated and eradicated if caught in time. The MMF is proud to have supported Divyansh Agarwal as one of our fellows during his formative years as a student researcher.

Michael Manzella Summer Fellowship Recipients, 2016 Matching Passion with Action

MMF awarded fellowships totaling more than \$15,000 to seven undergraduates whose summer projects demonstrate our powerful mission in action



John Liebman
Research into treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia at Weill Cornell Medical Center.

According to Jordan, "I have learned an incredible amount in a short period of time. I am confident my research will influence the treatment of future patients with this therapy as well as impact future clinical trials examining drugs with similar properties." Jordan found the experience to be transformative, saying he was changed by "immersing myself in the lives of both doctors and patients and developing my capacity for empathy."



Lidiya Kukova
Enhancing cancer research skills at the Yale School of Medicine.

As she explains in her own words, "In research, experiments do not always yield the expected results and this is what makes science exciting. Going through the process of experimental design has improved my critical thinking abilities and has taught me how to better analyze a situation from different angles. As someone who hopes to one day be a physician and continue conducting research, I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to develop these skills."



Luke S. Benz
Pursued two diverse passions last summer: biostatistics for Meningioma and building music skills for disadvantaged youth.

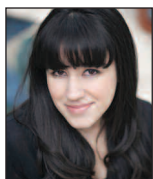
Working through the Yale School of Public Health, Luke's data analysis has real-life impact, both for the patients in the study as well as for Luke himself. Luke "examined scores across the various quality of life metrics to see if significant differences exist among the control group and patients five years removed from their meningioma diagnosis and treatment," and he adds, "After finishing my analysis, Dr. Claus and Professor Warren plan to help me write my

results as part of a publishable paper!" An accomplished trumpeter, Luke also worked with disadvantaged young people in his hometown to help build their music skills at little or no cost to the students and is building a plan for the future, noting, "I plan to recruit a network of teachers committed to offering lessons to kids who would otherwise have no exposure to music. My younger sister and brother have already signed on!"



Kevin Anh Nguyen
Examining and improving biopsy strategies for the detection of prostate cancer lesions.

Nguyen worked under the mentorship of Dr. Preston Sprenkle at the Yale School of Medicine in the Department of Urology. Kevin reports, "The summer research experience provided by the Manzella Fellowship has helped me make a meaningful contribution to the scientific community. I have been fortunate to witness first-hand how cancer research can impact a patient's life and shape the current standards of medicine. This fellowship has helped me pave a path into an academic career in medicine and has helped me catch a glimpse of the type of work I would love to one day pursue."



Alexandra Cadena
Lung cancer research at the Yale Cancer Center-Therapeutic Radiology Department.

Alexandra spent the summer combining radiation therapy with a small molecule inhibitor, NGI-1, to better sensitize lung cancer cells to radiotherapy. She was able to work under expert radiation oncologists and radio biologists who provided her with a great foundation for how to conduct effective research. Her experience this summer also has future implications. As Alex notes, "the MMF fellowship has inspired me to obtain a patent law degree that specializes in new small molecule inhibitors and

immunotherapy drugs so that cancer research can continue to innovate and so that new drugs/technologies can reach patients faster rather than be stymied by an ever-growing patent thicket."



Luying Yan
Conducted cancer research in the Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Yale University.

Her research focused on potential proteins and drugs that could increase the efficacy of chemotherapy in destroying cancer cells. Luying notes, "This research experience, which wouldn't have been possible without the Michael Manzella Fellowship, has been an incredible learning opportunity. I've learned to think more critically and flexibly. As a result, my research experience has made me a stronger scientist. Not only that, it has also deepened my commitment to improving cancer therapeutics. I hope to continue this line of work in the future as a pediatric oncologist."



Alexandru Buhimschi
Cancer research in the lab of Dr. Craig Crews at Yale University.

The focus of the research was on the development of PROteolysis Targeting Chimeras (PROTACs), a class of small molecules that can recruit disease-causing proteins to the cell's endogenous machinery for degradation, but Alex also became involved in a second project involving screening a series of compounds for their ability to treat Burkitt's Lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system. With a bright future ahead in research, Alex reflected on his experience last summer, saying it provided him with "the opportunity of a lifetime to pursue a line of research with deep professional and personal significance." Alex adds, "I am very thankful to the MMF for the opportunity to pursue this research full-time."